

WE WILL BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand a petition signed by 137 hard-working men and women from the R&R Manufacturing Co. in Auburn, GA. They signed their names to this paper asking me to vote for a balanced budget. They understand the cost of not balancing our budget. They understand why we must make a shared sacrifice in order to save our children's future. Republicans in the House and Senate understand—we voted to balance the budget. Even the President said he would finally submit a balanced budget—of course he then changed his mind. Maybe he just doesn't understand. But to my friends and neighbors back home like Mr. Jean Withers at R&R Manufacturing, I say this—we listened to what you said in November—we are making the hard choices, and we will balance the budget. It's all about keeping your word. And to my 137 friends back in Auburn, GA, I am keeping my word to you.

INDEPENDENT COUNSEL NEEDED TO INVESTIGATE THE SPEAKER

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the winter snows have come and gone, the cherry blossoms have blown away, and a tulip cannot be found around the Capitol. Yet stonewalling by the Ethics Committee has failed to bring an independent counsel to investigate the Speaker. I would like to tell my colleagues that there is one issue that I agree on 100 percent with the Speaker. I believe that we should give him just what he asked for when he raised questions concerning then-Speaker Wright. A 1988 press release stated "The rules normally applied by the Ethics Committee to an investigation of a typical Member are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House * * *".

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we removed these sinister dark clouds that hang over these Chambers: We need an independent counsel. I can not say it better than you did in 1988, "It is vital that the Ethics Committee hire outside counsel and pursue these questions thoroughly. The trust of the public and the integrity of the House will accept no lower standard."

□ 1400

REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO SAVING MEDICARE

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Medicare's trustees warn that

the Medicare system will be bankrupt in just 7 years in 2002.

That means that if you are 58 today—there might be no Medicare for you when you turn 65.

If the system goes bankrupt, Medicare does not have the authority to pay the hospital bills of any one senior citizen, let alone the 37 million senior citizens and disabled who will depend upon it.

That is the challenge all Americans face.

Republicans are committed to preserving, protecting, and saving Medicare.

We urge the President to join us in this effort.

HOLLYWOOD AND TV ARE NOT THE CAUSE OF OUR PROBLEMS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, more American children can name all the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Most of them cannot name the last three Presidents. More Americans watch Rush Limbaugh, Donahue, and Equal Time each week than watch C-SPAN all year. No doubt America is addicted to TV and Hollywood, which causes some experts to believe that the TV and Hollywood are the problems of the violence in America. I disagree, folks. I think TV and Hollywood are nothing more than a mirror image of our society, and, in fact, I think the Congress, instead of investigating Hollywood and television, should look at our policies about jobs. It is about jobs, Congress. Mom and dad with jobs, mom and dad will change America, not Capitol Hill nor Hollywood.

I would like to say this: Americans with jobs are not hanging out on the street corner. Jobs create family strength, and community pride. Investigate jobs and loss of jobs, Congress.

Let Hollywood and TV take care of themselves.

CLINTON EDUCATION CUTS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, our Democratic colleagues continue to distort our plan to balance the budget.

Specifically, they have—in demagogic fashion—argued that our budget plan will devastate education in our country.

In reality, our budget plan will protect important programs and consolidate and eliminate those that are duplicative and inefficient.

Before attacking our efforts to balance the budget and lower taxes on working families, I ask that my Democratic colleagues review the administration's 1996 budget request for the Department of Education.

The President proposes cutting the Department's budget by 9.8 percent and eliminating 30 percent of its programs.

Contrary to his rhetoric of late, the President's budget seems to acknowledge that we should streamline Federal education programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President and my Democratic colleagues to quit playing politics-as-usual and begin working with us to balance the budget.

It is time to quit playing games and get down to the real business at hand.

WE DO NOT NEED MORE B-2'S

(Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, the 1996 defense authorization bill before this House today repeals current law that limits the number of B-2 Stealth bombers that may be produced at 20 planes and lifting the current \$44 billion spending limit.

Mr. Speaker, witnesses on behalf of the Air Force, both civilians and uniformed service, have repeatedly indicated to us that they do not want these bombers, that the Joint Chiefs of Staff repeatedly have testified that they do not want to purchase more B-2's.

There is no money programmed in anyone's budget plan to pay for the out-year costs that will be forced by the bill's provisions to build more B-2's. This will cost \$38.2 billion over 20 years, and the highly regarded Institute for Defense Analyses has indicated that that money would be better spent on precision guided munitions and conventional munitions upgrades to the B-1 Bomber.

Mr. Speaker, what could that same amount of money be better used for, if not for deficit reduction? Then, alternatively, that same amount of money would immunize every child in the United States, fully fund Public Broadcasting for 10 years, restore all education funds and be better used for the people of this country.

WHERE ARE THE PRESIDENT'S IDEAS?

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it was nice to see the President sit beside the Speaker of the House and agree that the Medicare trust fund has serious problems that need to be fixed before it goes broke by the year 2002. It was encouraging to see the President agree that Medicare cannot survive under the status quo—that changes are necessary to preserve, protect, and save Medicare.

But Mr. Speaker, where are the President's ideas? Where are his solutions? Where are the ideas of my liberal Democrat colleagues in the House? It is easy to stand around and talk

about a problem, but it takes real leadership to actually work to solve a problem.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are showing leadership by producing real solutions to the real problems facing Medicare today. If the Clinton Democrats want to be relevant, I say it is time to put up or shut up. It is time to act responsibly and offer solutions, not criticisms.

OFFERING SOME SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. For what purpose does the gentleman from Massachusetts rise?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I ask unanimous consent to offer some solutions, for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, well, one solution to the problem would be not to build more B-2 bombers that we do not need, not to build more Sea Wolf submarines, not to add billions to the President's budget for defense, and instead put that into Medicare.

Medicare does need some help, and if the Republicans would stop increasing military spending beyond what we need and instead use it for Medicare, that would help, in particular.

We heard the most astounding thing today. The chairman of the Committee on Rules said that an amendment offered by the second ranking Democrat on the Committee on Armed Services could not be debated, and it would have allowed the House to vote on whether or not we should add \$9 billion over the President's request for the military.

They want to raise the budget by \$9 billion in that regard, and the chairman of the Committee on Rules said, "Oh, no, it is too delicate. We are negotiating now with the Senate, so we cannot let you vote on it." In other words, to preserve their negotiating position with the Senate, apparently knowing that it is a weak one, they will muffle this House, they will stifle this House.

And so you want to help Medicare? Do not waste that \$9 billion. Use it where it is needed.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1764, AN ACT TO END PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, of all of the ideas invented by the American left, none has been more destructive to the American notion of fair play and equal justice than affirmative action. It has changed America from a country grounded in individual rights to one where justice is determined by what is done for and to one's racial or ethnic group.

Discrimination is wrong, period, and affirmative action is nothing more

than discrimination with the Federal seal of approval. That is why on June 7, I introduced H.R. 1764, an act to end preferential treatment. Based on the California Civil Rights Initiative and introduced in the other body by Senators HELMS and SMITH, H.R. 1764 eliminates all Federal affirmative action programs in public employment, public contracting, and programs providing race-based benefits in education. H.R. 1764, puts America on the color-blind path envisioned by true believers in civil rights. It puts us on the road where skill and initiative determines an American's future, rather than skin color or where his parents came from.

Mr. Speaker, it really is long past time to end affirmative action. Support H.R. 1764, and put America back where it belongs.

HEALTH CARE REDUCTIONS, TAX BREAKS FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans continue to talk about the tough choices they have had to make in crafting their budget. I agree. Choosing to take health care away from our seniors in order to pay for special interest tax breaks is certainly a tough choice, and I cannot understand why they made it.

Why did they choose lower payments to hospitals in order to give tax breaks to large corporations? Why did they choose higher premiums and higher copayments for seniors of all income levels, in order to lower taxes for the most affluent? Why are they giving seniors fewer choices of doctors so that gas and oil companies get away with paying no taxes?

Mr. Speaker, only in Republican Washington is this reckless attack on our seniors called a reduction in the rate of increase.

PRIORITIES OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN OKLAHOMA CITY

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, as we know, there was a horrible tragedy in Oklahoma City, and our Federal Government has responded accordingly, as they do to other natural emergencies or manmade emergencies. They go down and offer assistance to help the affected area rebuild, and that is exactly what they have done in Oklahoma City.

First of all, keep in mind what is above the Speaker. It says, "In God we trust." The Federal Government went down there and said to the businesses in Oklahoma City, "Whether you own a saloon, whether you own a moviehouse that shows X-rated films," not exactly regardless, but almost regardless, "we will help you rebuild. There is one ex-

ception. The only people trust will not help rebuild in Oklahoma City are churches. Churches, don't you come to the Government and ask for one penny. Forget the fact that you were the temporary mortuary. Forget the fact the FBI used you as a headquarters. Forget the fact you suffered damage like every other business in Oklahoma City. We are the Federal Government. We will help the local saloon. We are not going to help the local church."

What do you call this? In God trust?

What a great thing to hear about the Federal Government: Not one penny for a local church.

RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING BY FRANCE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC WOULD RAISE DEEP CONCERNS

(Mr. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the possible resumption of nuclear testing by the Government of France in the South Pacific.

Not only does the resumption of testing raise serious environmental concerns for the people of the Pacific who have unfortunately gained a firsthand appreciation of the hazards of nuclear weapons over the past 50 years, but this issue has a larger international dynamic.

Only a few weeks ago, some 170 nations agreed to extend the Non-Proliferation Treaty indefinitely. Central to that decision was the expectation that the nuclear weapons states would complete a comprehensive nuclear test ban on all nuclear testing no later than 1996 and that they will refrain from testing until that time.

A resumption of French testing will destroy this historic opportunity and seriously undermine international efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons. With the recent Chinese nuclear test, this is the time to stand our ground and affirm our leadership on the nuclear test ban issue.

Today, I am initiating a letter to President Clinton urging him to receive assurances from French President Jacques Chirac in their meeting tomorrow that France will continue its current testing moratorium. I encourage my colleagues to join me in signing this important letter. Let us say bon jour to the President, but au revoir to French testing.

LIBERALS OFFER NO IDEAS, ONLY FEAR

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, President Franklin Roosevelt said "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."